

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 OMB-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 COME-00 SCEM-02 INT-08

DRC-01 AF-10 SAJ-01 /226 W

----- 038855

R 201130Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8394

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: THAI POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. PRACHA GUNA-KASEM, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 16 NOVEMBER 1973 IN WHICH HE AFFIRMED THAILAND'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS MIDDLE EAST CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL TO BE FOLLOWED BY DIRECT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WE ARE PROVIDING COPIES OF THE TEXT SEPARATELY TO ADDRESSEE POSTS BY AIRGRAM. THAILAND'S POLICY ON THE ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE REMAINS UNCHANGED FRM ITS SUPPORT IN 1967 FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ISRAEL TO PULL BACK FROM SEIZED TERRITORIES. PRACHA DREW ATTENTION TO THAI AMBASSADOR ANAND'S (LARGELY PRO-

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ARAB) UNGA SPEECH OF 1 OCTOBER 1973.

2. PRACHA DISCUSSED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI CHUNHAVAN'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO NEGOTIATE OIL PURCHASES, POSSIBLY BY BARTER. PRACHA INDICATED THREE PROSPECTIVE SOURCES FOR CRUDE OIL: SAUDI ARABIA; KUWAIT; AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HE ADDED THAT THE PROSPECTS OF PURCHASING OIL FROM CHINA ARE STILL REMOTE SINCE THAILAND DOES NOT YET HAVE ANY DIRECT TRADE WITH CHINA.

3. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THAILAND IS NOT YET UNDER PRESSURE TO STRAIN OR BREAK ITS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL. OIL SUPPLIES AND THE PRICE OF DIESEL AND GASOLINE ARE INTENSELY POLITICAL SUBJECTS, HOWEVER. THE SANYA GOVERNMENT MAY YET SEE IT IN THAILAND'S INTEREST TO TRY TO CURRY FURTHER FAVOR WITH THE ARAB STATES TO INSURE GETTING THE OIL IT NEEDS TO SOLVE ITS DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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